

LCMS  
LATIN AMERICA &  
CARIBBEAN REGION



ALLIANCE MISSIONARY  
SUPPORT CATALOG  
2023



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Alliance Missionary Arthur Benevenuti
2. Alliance Missionary Benjamin Flores
3. Alliance Missionary Sergio Fritzler
4. Alliance Missionary Obot Ite
5. Alliance Missionary Gustavo Maita
6. Alliance Missionary Sergio Maita
7. Alliance Missionary Rafael Milagres
8. Alliance Missionary Lucas Elberhardt Nunes
9. Alliance Missionary Maicon Schieferdecker
10. Alliance Missionary Walterson Siewert
11. Alliance Missionary Raphael Voigt





## ALLIANCE MISSIONARY PASTOR ARTHUR BENEVENUTI



- ***Provides Word and Sacrament ministry to St. Andrews Lutheran congregation***
- ***Serves new preaching stations in Kingston***
- ***Tirelessly works to find new ways to reach Jamaicans with the Gospel***

Alliance Missionary, Rev. Arthur Benevenuti, is a church-planting pastor in Kingston, Jamaica. He grew up in a Lutheran family and married his high school sweetheart, Luciema, in 2001. They and their two young daughters are from Porto Alegre in Southern Brazil.

Pastor Benevenuti brings a wealth of experience to the growing St. Andrews Lutheran congregation. Additionally, he is laying the foundation for a future Lutheran preschool to reach young children and their families.

He has experience as a school chaplain and church planter. Most recently, he served a congregation in Brazil of 700 members. Pastor Arthur wrote the first online Bible study

and was a frequent contributor to *The Way project*, a community outreach tool. His contributions have been featured on the Lutheran Hour radio program and in the devotion booklet, *Five Minutes with Jesus*.

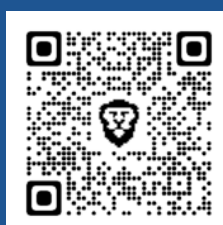
Rev. Benevenuti received his Bachelor of Theology degree from the Lutheran University of Brazil in 2005 and a Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary in São Leopoldo, Brazil, in 2008. He is working toward his Sacred Theology Masters from the same institution. Additionally, he began work on a Ph. D from Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne in 2019.

**Give Now: <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/alliance-missionary-general>**

Checks should be made out to: **LCMS**      Memo line: ALA012

Mail to either of the following:

**LCMS Mission Advancement**  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861



**Mission Central**  
40716 Highway E-16  
Mapleton, IA 51034

Contact: [jana.inglehart@lcms.org](mailto:jana.inglehart@lcms.org)





## ALLIANCE MISSIONARY PASTOR BENJAMIN FLORES



- *Provides Word and Sacrament ministry to two Spanish-speaking communities*
- *Serves as chaplain for the new Lutheran preschool*
- *Works to find creative ways to reach Belizeans with the Gospel*

Pastor Benjamin Flores is a church-planting pastor serving in Belize with his Norwegian wife, Karina, and their son Lukas.

Benjamin grew up in a Catholic family in Cochabamba, Bolivia. During his high school years, he attended the Lutheran high school in Cochabamba. In college, he studied chemical engineering for three years. Then, encouraged by his Lutheran pastor, Benjamin began theological studies at Concordia Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2014. He transferred to Concordia the Reformer Seminary in the Dominican Republic and graduated in 2019.

Following his vicarage assignment in Belize, he was called to serve as an Alliance Missionary there through an agreement with the Christian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bolivia (ICEL). He was ordained on November 28, 2020, in Cochabamba.

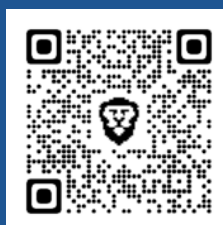
Rev. Flores is planting churches and leads Bible studies in Valley of Peace and Orange Walk. In addition, he has weekly chapel services for the students at Little Lambs preschool and leads numerous youth activities. Pastor Flores continues to study English online through our Latin America & Caribbean (LAC) regional language institute in the Dominican Republic.

**Give Now:** <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/alliance-missionary-general>

Checks should be made out to: **LCMS**      Memo line: ALA001

Mail to either of the following:

**LCMS Mission Advancement**  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861



**Mission Central**  
40716 Highway E-16  
Mapleton, IA 51034

Contact: [jana.inglehart@lcms.org](mailto:jana.inglehart@lcms.org)





## ALLIANCE MISSIONARY PASTOR SERGIO FRITZLER



- *Pastoral support for the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission (DRLM)*
- *Provost of Concordia the Reformer Seminary and Mercy Center*
- *Enriches colleagues, students, and members with his musical gifts*

Rev. Sergio Fritzler is an Alliance Missionary pastor from Argentina. Since his arrival in January 2017, he has served in various capacities in the Dominican Republic. Currently, Pastor Fritzler serves as a church planter at Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Licey alongside Dominican Pastor Yban Navarro. In that role, he shepherds the flock, supervises the seminary field workers assigned to serve the congregation, makes evangelistic visits, and assesses the church-planting potential of nearby communities.

He also serves Concordia the Reformer seminary as a professor and provost, overseeing the affairs of both residential students and distance learners in

partnership with Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Additionally, Pastor Fritzler is an accomplished musician. He has played a substantial role in developing the new Lutheran Hymnal in Spanish, which was rolled out in the spring of 2022.

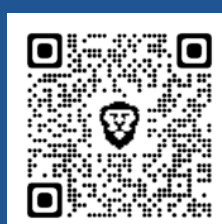
Rev. Fritzler is married to his youth group sweetheart, Lilian. Together they have two sons, Enzo and Martín. Martín is a new first-year student at Concordia the Reformer seminary. Pastor Sergio enjoys grilling, playing the accordion, and playing soccer with his sons in his spare time.

Give online at [www.lcms.org/givenow/fritzler](http://www.lcms.org/givenow/fritzler)

Checks should be made out to: **LCMS** Memo line: ALA002

Mail to either of the following:

**LCMS Mission Advancement**  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861



**Mission Central**  
40716 Highway E-16  
Mapleton, IA 51034

Contact: [jana.inglehart@lcms.org](mailto:jana.inglehart@lcms.org)





## ALLIANCE MISSIONARY PASTOR OBOT ITE



- *Represents a partnership with the Lutheran Church of Nigeria*
- *Pastoral support and church planting in Kingston and outlying areas*
- *Leadership and vision for men's and children's ministries*

Rev. Obot Ite is a church planter in Jamaica and is the longest-serving Alliance Missionary on the LCMS mission field. He grew up with a missionary pastor, later received his theological education, and became a pastor in the Lutheran Church of Nigeria (LCN). Since Jamaica has a substantial population with African heritage, partnering with the Lutheran Church of Nigeria (LCN) to call Rev. Ite to Jamaica in October 2007 as an Alliance Missionary pastor was logical and has borne much fruit.

Pastor Obot serves as the Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, a mission in downtown Kingston. He conducts

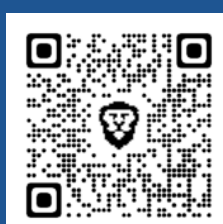
worship services, leads Bible classes and works especially hard to shore up the men in their roles as husbands and fathers. In addition, he regularly makes visits and conducts services at two preaching stations. His emphasis on empowering lay leaders, expanding outreach to adults and children, and establishing the church's mercy arm has brought in new members and grounded them in God's Word.

Pastor Ite and his Jamaican wife, Melissa, are parents to two school-age daughters, Goodness and Aamira.

**Give online at [www.lcms.org/givenow/missionary-obot-ite](http://www.lcms.org/givenow/missionary-obot-ite)**

Checks should be made out to: **LCMS**      Memo line: ALA003  
Mail to either of the following:

**LCMS Mission Advancement**  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861



**Mission Central**  
40716 Highway E-16  
Mapleton, IA 51034

Contact: [jana.inglehart@lcms.org](mailto:jana.inglehart@lcms.org)





## ALLIANCE MISSIONARY PASTOR GUSTAVO MAITA



- ***Missionary Pastor for Puerto Rico***
- ***Disaster Response Coordinator for Puerto Rico***
- ***Provides disaster response training for the Caribbean Region***

Venezuelan native, Rev. Gustavo Maita, grew up in a Lutheran home. This firm foundation served as a launch pad for formal theological studies, which began at Juan de Frías Theological Institute in Venezuela and continued at Concordia Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He served his vicarage in the Dominican Republic and graduated from Concordia Seminary in Argentina.

In 2017, Pastor Maita received a Divine Call from the Lutheran Church of Venezuela to serve as an Alliance Missionary in Puerto Rico. As a church-planting pastor, he has shared preaching and teaching responsibilities at multiple church plants. Additionally, Maita is the

Disaster Response Coordinator for Puerto Rico and provides long-distance disaster response consulting and in-person workshops for church leaders and laity in countries across the Caribbean. With the numerous disasters that continue to hammer Puerto Rico and the region, his disaster response skills have been a great blessing.

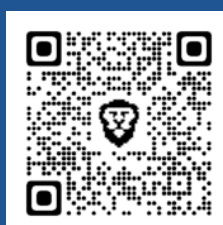
Pastor Maita is married to LCMS missionary Ruth Maita, a teacher who also serves in Puerto Rico. The couple has been blessed with two children, Mikhaela and Isaiah. Maita enjoys playing with his children, doing handyman projects, and cooking for family and friends.

**Give Now: <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/alliance-missionary-general>**

Checks should be made out to: **LCMS**      Memo line: ALA004

Mail to either of the following:

**LCMS Mission Advancement**  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861



**Mission Central**  
40716 Highway E-16  
Mapleton, IA 51034

Contact: [jana.inglehart@lcms.org](mailto:jana.inglehart@lcms.org)





## ALLIANCE MISSIONARY PASTOR SERGIO MAITA



- *Pastoral support for the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission (DRLM)*
- *Spearheads authentic community outreach initiatives*
- *Professor at Concordia the Reformer Seminary*

Venezuelan Pastor Sergio Maita is a church planter and seminary professor in the Dominican Republic. He serves a mission in Santo Domingo that began in 2018 with just himself and his family. His gift of teaching and love for the people has resulted in the rapid growth of the congregation, a blended group of Venezuelan and Dominican members. In addition, he serves a new mission in Los Mina, an adjoining community Santo Domingo.

Maita completed a business degree in 2010, followed by a 3-year residential program at Juan de Frías Theological Institute in Caracas. He graduated and

accepted his first call as a pastor/professor at Juan de Frías in 2008. In 2015, Pastor Sergio received a Divine Call from the Venezuelan Lutheran Church to serve as an Alliance Missionary to the Dominican Republic. In addition to all his duties, he completed a Sacred Theology Masters (STM) degree from Concordia Theological Seminary Ft. Wayne, Indiana, in 2018.

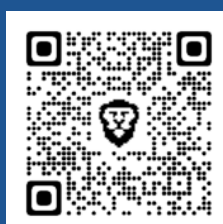
Rev. Maita is married to Yoxandris, a dentist by profession. The couple has three young children. Pastor Sergio enjoys spending time with family, bicycling, and studying theology.

**Give Now:** <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/alliance-missionary-general>

Checks should be made out to: **LCMS** Memo line: ALA005

Mail to either of the following:

**LCMS Mission Advancement**  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861



**Mission Central**  
40716 Highway E-16  
Mapleton, IA 51034

Contact:  
[jana.inglehart@lcms.org](mailto:jana.inglehart@lcms.org)





## ALLIANCE MISSIONARY PASTOR RAFAEL MILAGRES



- *Outreach initiatives for the community in and around Puerto Barrios*
- *Word and Sacrament ministry for the local congregation*
- *Chaplain for the local Lutheran School*

Brazilian Pastor Rafael Milagres has served in Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, as the chaplain for a Lutheran school and a church planter since 2021. He co-pastors Christ the Savior Lutheran Church with a Guatemalan pastor and has begun outreach work for a brand-new church plant.

Rev. Milagres was brought up in the Roman Catholic Church, but he had questions that led him to dig deeper into the Scriptures and seek a church body with more biblical teachings. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (IELB) provided answers to all his questions. He studied theology at the university level,

and with encouragement from his Lutheran pastor, he began his formal pastoral formation at the Lutheran University of Brazil in 2015. He was ordained in 2021 and called by the IELB to serve as an Alliance Missionary in Puerto Barrios, Guatemala.

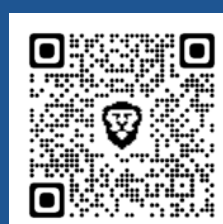
Pastor Rafael and his wife Lucia, a fellow convert to Lutheranism, married in 2005. Their daughter Mariana, born in 2011, attends the school at which her dad serves. Pastor Milagres and his family take walks together often, and Rafael, a fishing enthusiast, appreciates Puerto Barrios' bayside setting.

**Give Now: <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/alliance-missionary-general>**

Checks should be made out to: **LCMS**      Memo line: ALA006

Mail to either of the following:

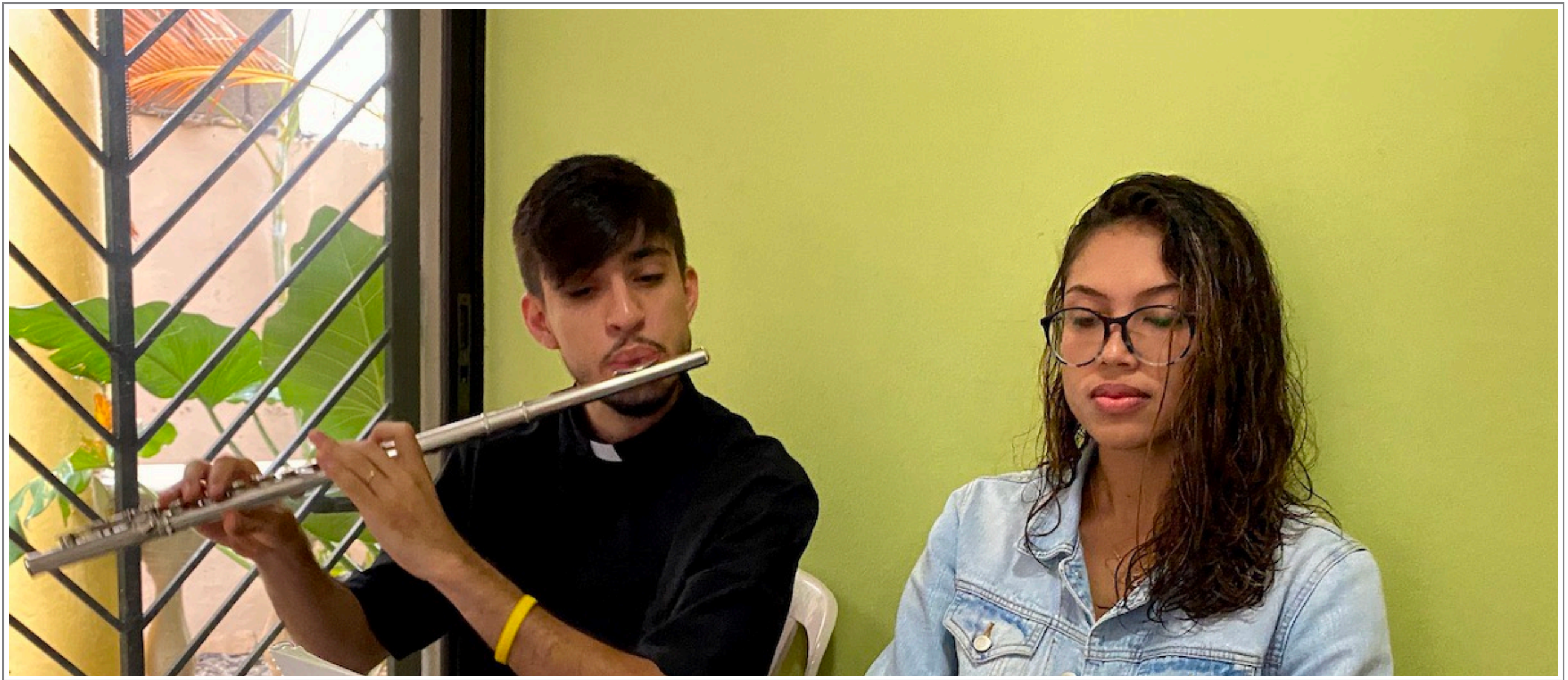
**LCMS Mission Advancement**  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861



**Mission Central**  
40716 Highway E-16  
Mapleton, IA 51034

Contact: [jana.inglehart@lcms.org](mailto:jana.inglehart@lcms.org)





## ALLIANCE MISSIONARY PASTOR LUCAS ELBERHARDT



- *Word and Sacrament ministry for young and old in the Dominican Republic*
- *Boundless energy used to connect and share God's Word with youth through sports activities*
- *This young married couple brings incredible musical talent to the mission*

Rev. Lucas Elberhardt, a church-planting pastor in the Dominican Republic, serves a mission congregation in Santo Domingo. Pastor Lucas leads worship services, teaches Bible classes, makes home visits, and works diligently to build bridges into the community. His robust youth outreach efforts include sports camps, youth days and music lessons, all of which include a devotion or Bible lesson. In addition to parish ministry, he currently supervises the fieldwork of two seminarians.

Pastor Lucas completed his theological studies at the Lutheran University of Brazil. In March 2021, he

was called by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (IELB) to serve as an Alliance Missionary to the Dominican Republic.

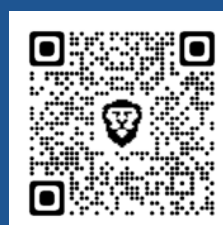
Both Lucas and his bride, Agatha, are accomplished musicians. Lucas plays the flute, and Agatha the piano. Agatha brings her musical abilities to the community, providing lessons to local youth. In addition, she and Lucas enjoy glorifying God with their musical gifts in the Divine Service and helping raise up future church musicians. The couple is expecting their first child in February 2023.

**Give Now: <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/alliance-missionary-general>**

Checks should be made out to: **LCMS**      Memo line: ALA007

Mail to either of the following:

**LCMS Mission Advancement**  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861



**Mission Central**  
40716 Highway E-16  
Mapleton, IA 51034

Contact: [jana.inglehart@lcms.org](mailto:jana.inglehart@lcms.org)





## ALLIANCE MISSIONARY MAICON SCHIEFERDECKER



- *Pastor for Lutheran Church plants in Salto, Chapicuy and Paysandú*
- *Spearheads community outreach initiatives*
- *Shares God's Word with locals as well as tourists who visit the area*

Rev. Maicon Schieferdecker serves as a church planter in three locations, Salto, Chapicuy and Paysandú in northern Uruguay. He leads worship services and Bible classes in a new worship facility in Chapicuy and a rented storefront in Salto. Work on the new mission in Paysandú is in the beginning stages.

Pastor Schieferdecker had planned to become a math teacher, but friends encouraged him in his life-long desire to be a pastor. He graduated from the Lutheran University of Brazil and was ordained in 2006. For the next 15 years, he served congregations in Brazil. In 2021 he was called by the Evangelical Lutheran Church

of Brazil to serve as an Alliance Missionary in Uruguay. Pastor Maicon welcomed the challenge of planting new churches in three locations.

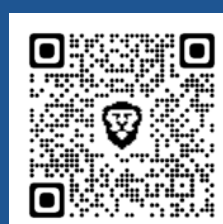
Rev. Schieferdecker and his bride, Jéssica, live far from family and friends and more than 300 miles from the nearest missionary. For some, the isolation would be crippling, but this young missionary family uses the isolation as a time to grow stronger together. They find joy in simple pleasures, chiefly playing with their young daughters, Livia and Talita.

**Give Now:** <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/alliance-missionary-general>

Checks should be made out to: **LCMS** Memo line: ALA008

Mail to either of the following:

**LCMS Mission Advancement**  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861



**Mission Central**  
40716 Highway E-16  
Mapleton, IA 51034

Contact: [jana.inglehart@lcms.org](mailto:jana.inglehart@lcms.org)





## ALLIANCE MISSIONARY WALTERSON SIEWERT



- *Tri-lingual pastor from Paraguay brings multicultural experience to the mission*
- *Pastoral support for two congregations and a mercy house in Lima*
- *Embraces the joys and challenges of urban ministry*

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay called Rev. Walterson Siewert Lang to serve as an Alliance Missionary to Peru in 2019. Pastor Walterson serves as a church planter in Lima's highly populous Los Olivos and La Victoria districts.

A native Paraguayan, and the first foreign missionary for the Paraguayan church body, he brings multicultural experience and invaluable church-planting skills to the missions in Peru. In addition, his teaching ability, welcoming smile, and warm personality make him a natural evangelist. Rev. Siewert's experience is a great blessing to the two young Peruvian pastors who look to him for wisdom and guidance.

Pastor Walterson's parents were Brazilian-born and spoke Portuguese in the home. He learned Spanish in school and polished his English while earning an M.A. at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. This fluency in three languages lends itself to cross-cultural relationship-building across Latin America.

Rev. Siewert married Peruvian national Estefania in 2017, so their daughter Isabella has dual citizenship. Given the proximity of family and friends, Peru feels like home for the Siewert family. Lord willing, they will serve in Peru for years to come.

**Give Now:** <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/alliance-missionary-general>

Checks should be made out to: **LCMS**      Memo line: ALA009

Mail to either of the following:

**LCMS Mission Advancement**  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

**Mission Central**  
40716 Highway E-16  
Mapleton, IA 51034

Contact: [jana.inglehart@lcms.org](mailto:jana.inglehart@lcms.org)





## ALLIANCE MISSIONARY RAPHAEL VOIGT



- *Word and Sacrament ministry for the Lord's Church in Panama*
- *Works with local deaconesses to do community outreach in Los Andes, Panama*
- *Brings youthful energy and a wealth of experience to comfort hurting people*

Rev. Raphael Voigt is a church-planting pastor in Los Andes, Panama. There, he teaches Bible classes, leads worship services and finds creative ways to reach the local community. Pastor Voigt works with a local deaconess to provide painting classes for children and adults in the community. Each class includes a devotion or Bible lesson. He also provides music lessons, visits elementary schools, orphanages and hospitals, and makes inroads into the community, sharing the Gospel wherever he goes.

Pastor Raphael grew up in Brazil and worked as a computer programmer and systems analyst. He began volunteering with his church's youth and soon held a

regional leadership role. A pastor encouraged him to begin seminary studies, where he was exposed to hospital visits, drug rehab center chaplaincy, and children's music ministry. In 2021, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil called Rev. Voigt to serve as an Alliance Missionary to Panama. His practical experience aids him in his role as a church planter and revitalizer in Los Andes.

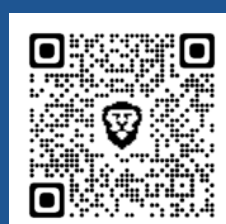
Pastor Voigt enjoys soccer, biking, and motocross. He loves studying theology and has plans to earn an advanced theological degree in the future.

**Give Now:** <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/alliance-missionary-general>

Checks should be made out to: **LCMS**      Memo line: ALA011

Mail to either of the following:

**LCMS Mission Advancement**  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861



**Mission Central**  
40716 Highway E-16  
Mapleton, IA 51034

Contact: [jana.inglehart@lcms.org](mailto:jana.inglehart@lcms.org)